FAA Radar – Early History

In July 1947, the Australian Government took the decision to form a Royal Australian Nay Fleet Air Arm (FAA) to enhance Australia's defence capability. The stright deck light fleet carrier HMS *Terrible* was purchased from the Royal Navy, and equipped to handle fighter Hawker Siddley Sea Fury and the fighter bomber Firefly 5 & 6. The firefly was the first FAA aircraft with radar capability, The Sea Fury had no radar.

To put this into context it should be noted that althouth this was Australia's first foray into a fully integrated FAA capability, it was far from beig the first occasion of naval aircraft operating with RAN ships. Between 1914 and 1944 a number of RAN ships had operated with ship launched aircraft. Some were the sloop Una, the cruisers Pioneer, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Australia, and the seaplane tender HMAS Albatross. Some of the aircraft involved were the BE.2 landplane, Short & Sopwith Seaplane, Sopwith Baby, Fairey 111D seaplane, Supermarine Seagull V (Walrus), Sopwith Camel, and Supermarine Sea Otter. (note 2). So whereas the technology of the FAA was new, the tradition of RAN air/sea warfare was 34 years old, and at the date of publication of this document, is 93 years old.